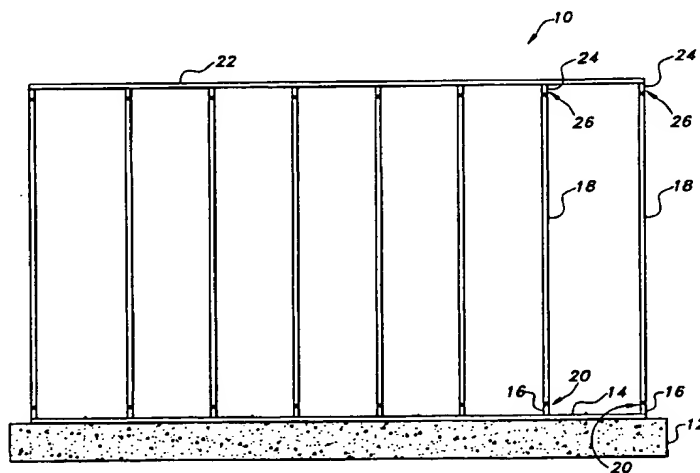




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(54) Title: METAL FRAMING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A system and method are provided for framing at least a portion of a wide variety of structures. In each embodiment, the framing system includes a base, which may be attached to a foundation of the structure by conventional means, which preferably comprises at least one rectangular or square metal tube. Alternatively, the base may be made of other metal structures. The framing system further includes a plurality of lower connecting members attached to and extending upwardly from the base and a plurality of upwardly extending support members which are interconnected to the lower connecting members. The framing system may further include an upper member and a plurality of upper connecting members attached to and extending downwardly from the upper member. Each of the support members is also interconnected to one of the upper connecting members, which is aligned with one of the lower connecting members. The interconnections between the support members and the corresponding lower and upper connecting members may be achieved by various alternative configurations, but in each case one member has a reduced end portion which is inserted into a non-reduced end portion of the adjacent member. The reduced end portion is preferably achieved by a roll reduction process.